

## NOTICE TO OHIO NATURALISTS

### NATURAL AREAS PROJECT

The Ohio Biological Survey, an organization of more than 25 Ohio institutions, has been anxious to sponsor an inventory of natural areas within the state. Such an inventory will have much value to specialists in many fields, to teachers, to naturalists, and to those groups especially interested in the preservation of such areas. With the cooperation of many persons throughout Ohio, this project got under way in the spring of 1959 and progress to date has been most encouraging.

*Objectives.*—Truly virgin areas within Ohio are almost nonexistent. Even so, we desire to collect data on all areas which are still sufficiently natural and distinctive enough to be of interest to biologists, naturalists, teachers and conservationists. To be worthy of reporting, an area needs to be unique only to the extent that it is one of the best habitats of its type in its vicinity. (The area may be the only remnant of a once common habitat, such as a glacial bog in the midst of a muck farm community.) Data on significant species, types of habitat, location and present ownership will be assembled, and pertinent information concerning the need for protecting the area by purchase, regulation, or other means will be included. Such data will be made available to all qualified persons. We are already working closely with the Ohio Chapter of Nature Conservancy in efforts to preserve our most valuable natural areas.

*Methods.*—This project must be a cooperative effort. By means of letters, personal contacts, academy meetings, and publications, we wish to encourage all qualified persons to contribute data. Forms for reporting areas are sent to all who show an interest. Once we receive a preliminary report, we will pursue it further by letter writing, reading, conferences, and actual visits to areas.

*Results to date.*—Thanks to the efforts of some of Ohio's leading professional biologists, as well as to many able amateurs, we now have preliminary reports on about 130 areas, sent in by no less than 50 contributors and representing more than half of our 88 counties. Among the areas listed are bogs, swamps, ponds, sand dunes, heronries, prairies, virgin and non-virgin forests, etc. We are well started, but only started.

*Help wanted.*—This project still needs much help. If you are familiar with any interesting *natural* area anywhere in Ohio, please inform us of it. Your card or letter will promptly bring you a more detailed account of what is needed, a list of the natural areas already on record, and a form for reporting data. Address all information to the Natural Areas Project Leader, J. Arthur Herrick, Kent State University.

### TAXONOMY AND DISTRIBUTION OF ODONATA IN OHIO

The Ohio Biological Survey has also accepted sponsorship of a project leading to the publication of a Bulletin on the Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) of Ohio, with Robert W. Alrutz, Denison University, as its leader.

Initial research began this summer and consists of a faunistic study of the geographic and seasonal distribution of the Ohio species. Efforts are being made to: (a) examine all available collections whose data have not been published, including private as well as institutional collections; (b) solicit the cooperation of those who may collect specimens for contribution to the project or whose data may be used; and (c) do field collecting in those parts of Ohio which have thus far been little collected.

To this end, information is solicited as to the location of natural waters such as swamps, bogs, natural pools, and relatively undisturbed streams. These data, together with pertinent life-history and taxonomic information, will then ultimately be incorporated into the proposed Bulletin. The impending problem is the solicitation of assistance from others. For this reason, we are seeking information concerning the location of collectors or persons who would be willing to collect for us.

Please contact the project leader.

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